

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

799 E. Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA. 92415-0011

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM 1-800-722-4794.....Fax (909) 386-8325

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL 1-800-722-4794.....Fax (909) 387-2861

EPIDEMIOLOGY 1-800-722-4794.....Fax (909) 386-8325

ALLAN RAWLAND, MSW, ACSW
Acting Public Health Director

TRUDY RAYMUNDO
Assistant Director of Public Health

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2011

News Release # 11-06

CONTACT: Pooneh Navab
Health Educator
Immunization Program
(909) 383-3235

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.
Health Officer

VACCINATE BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

Perfect Time to Get Your Preteen the New Tdap Booster Shot Before School!

San Bernardino. Beginning July 1, 2011, all students entering grades 7-12 must provide proof of having a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough) booster shot before starting school. Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California since 2010. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that all Californians 7 years and older receive a booster shot against pertussis. Moreover, Assembly Bill 354 now chaptered into California law requires students to be immunized against pertussis.

In light of California's recent whooping cough epidemic, there is no reason to wait for the new school year to get the Tdap booster shot. Health professionals encourage parents to have their preteens vaccinated with the Tdap booster shot now in order to protect them against whooping cough, and to meet the new 2011-12 California school law requirement.

"Protecting the health of California's youth is one of our most urgent priorities," said Dr. Maxwell Ohikhuare, Health Officer, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. "The Vaccinate Before You Graduate campaign, which runs February through May, is part of our commitment to ensure preteens and teens receive all the benefits immunizations can provide. It's important that preteens and teens see the doctor, get immunized and stay healthy," said Dr. Ohikhuare. "Immunity received from childhood vaccines can wane over time, exposing preteens and teens to serious diseases that could easily spread, leading to missed weeks of school or worse. In addition to the required Tdap shot, there are also numerous adolescent vaccines that are now recommended for this age group."

Scheduling a well visit with your child's doctor is the perfect opportunity to get your preteen and teen several important vaccines recommended for this age group including Tdap, the meningococcal vaccine, a second chickenpox shot (if they never had chickenpox disease or had only one dose of the vaccine), annual influenza, and the HPV vaccine series.

Your doctor can provide the Tdap shot and other adolescent vaccines if your child has health insurance. Otherwise, ask your doctor or local health department for information about the Vaccine for Children Program which provides vaccines at no- or low-cost. For clinic locations, schedules and appointments, call 1-800-722-4777, Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit the website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph.

For more information, visit www.GetImmunizedCA.org and www.ShotsForSchool.org.

#

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
BRAD MITZELFELT.....First District NEIL DERRY.....Third District
JANICE RUTHERFORDSecond District GARY C. OVITT.....Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES.....Fifth District